

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-18 are now in the application. Claim 15 has been amended. Claim 18 has been added.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 15-16 have been objected to because of an informality. Appropriate correction has been made.

In item 2 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-6 and 12 have been rejected as being anticipated by Baba et al. (US Pat. No. 4,745,542) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the reference.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a plurality of dedicated monitoring devices each assigned to a respective one of the system components to be monitored, each of said dedicated monitoring devices being operable independently of the respective system component to be monitored. (Emphasis added.)

According to the invention of the instant application, there is a plurality of system components (COREx) carrying out the same or mutually corresponding actions. Each of the system components (COREx) to be monitored is assigned to a dedicated monitoring device that can be operated independently of the system components to be monitored (see the second paragraph on page 4 of the specification).

In contrast, in Baba et al., there is only one controlled device (not a plurality of system components carrying out the same or mutually corresponding actions) which is controlled by a plurality of identical operation control units (see column 1, lines 62-65).

The object of Baba et al. is to improve the reliability of the control of the controlled device by comparing the control output signals of the respective control units and disengaging power to the controlled device if all of the control signals do not match (see column 2, lines 10-13).

In contrast, the fact that a large number of monitoring devices is provided to monitor the system components according to the invention of the instant application provides the advantage that a malfunction of one monitoring device will not automatically result in complete failure of the system or of

the monitoring (see the third paragraph of the specification of the instant application).

Clearly, Baba et al. do not show "a plurality of dedicated monitoring devices each assigned to a respective one of the system components to be monitored, each of said dedicated monitoring devices being operable independently of the respective system component to be monitored", as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Baba et al. and since claims 2-6 and 12 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 3 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 7-11 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Baba et al. in view of Niggemann et al. (US Pat. No. 5,526,264) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 7-11 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 4 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 13-17 have been rejected as being unpatentable over

Baba et al. in view of Katzman et al. (US Pat. No. 4,672,537) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 13-17 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Claim 18 is added and is believed to be patentable because it is ultimately dependent on claim 1 which is believed to be patentable as discussed above.

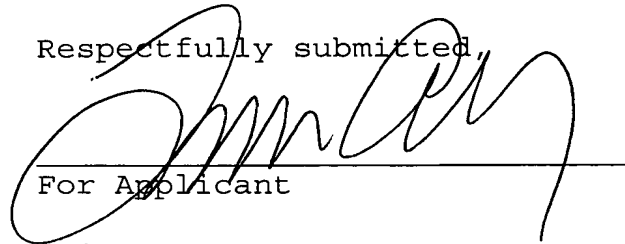
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the

Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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